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cooperating with
Tennessee
Department
of Agriculture



FARM FACTS

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State Statistician

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Holiday Greetings

From the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service (TASS) office staff and the core of interviewers who contact agricultural producers throughout the year, we wish you, your families, and your loved ones peace and joy during this holiday season.

The holiday season brings with it memories of our experiences throughout the year, happy times we've shared with family and friends, accomplishments we've made, and thoughts of the future. The season is traditionally a time for giving. The people of this great State, regardless of setbacks, always find room to help others not only during the holidays but year long. This helps define the true holiday spirit.

The TASS staff extends our sincere appreciation for your support of our programs, enabling us to provide critical, reliable agricultural information in a free, open, and timely manner. We pledge our unbiased and sustained service to the Tennessee agricultural community.

Later this month, you will be receiving a **2002 Census Of Agriculture**. The census of agriculture is currently conducted every 5 years and was first taken in 1840 as part of the population census. Over 100,000 census of agriculture report forms will be mailed to Tennessee agricultural and potential agricultural producers to collect data for the 2002 calendar year. Completed report forms from each producer are due February 3, 2003. Response to this census, regardless of operation size, ensures that Tennessee agriculture is accurately represented.

Accurate, timely statistics about agriculture have a number of very important uses. Here are some examples:

- ⇒ Used in formulas that determine distribution of funding for agricultural research, extension projects, and compensation programs.
- ⇒ Farm machinery manufacturers more effectively target their industries to where they are needed by using county and State statistics, resulting in economic benefits for farm operators.
- ⇒ Used by rural electric companies to forecast future energy and resource needs.
- ⇒ Identifies areas of the state that may need migrant workers.
- ⇒ Aides in the establishment of budgets for producer loans.
- ⇒ Measures the economic impact of agriculture on a State's economy.
- ⇒ Allows State Departments of Agriculture to plan for and be responsive to drought, emergency outbreaks of diseases or pest infestations.

Please take time to fill your 2002 Census of Agriculture form out when you receive it. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to give me a call.



Sincerely,

Debra K. Kenerson

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Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned(Excluding Linters) Prior to November 15, Crop Years 1999-2002

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	1999	2000	2001	2002
All Cotton				
AL	470,750	425,950	464,700	334,950
AZ	296,750	310,700	321,200	305,350
AR	1,345,450	1,348,650	1,485,600	1,253,650
CA	1,003,200	1,275,700	1,099,500	954,850
FL	71,700	64,900	73,850	30,550
GA	808,050	905,250	1,070,150	733,250
LA	899,200	893,500	926,400	582,700
MS	1,607,750	1,644,650	1,828,550	1,359,600
MO	444,400	478,400	551,350	432,900
NM	29,550	37,950	39,350	20,250
NC	297,250	687,600	749,550	416,300
OK	83,150	88,600	92,300	85,350
SC	148,000	232,600	259,400	56,950
Tennessee	557,950	673,350	771,350	555,450
TX	2,880,950	2,305,200	2,742,400	2,124,200
VA	61,450	73,450	82,300	47,250
US	11,005,550	11,446,450	12,557,950	9,293,550
Amer-Pima				
AZ	¹	¹	5,850	8,450
CA	159,400	140,850	163,900	170,250
NM	¹	¹	4,800	¹
TX	15,400	12,000	17,150	¹
US	183,250	158,850	191,700	196,400

¹ Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins, but included in the U.S. totals.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee and United States, November 2002, with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		November 2001 ¹	October 2002 ¹	November 2002 ²	November 2001 ¹	October 2002 ¹	November 2002 ²

Dollars Per Unit

Field Crops

Winter Wheat	bu.	2.90	3.91	---	2.82	4.32	4.15
Corn	bu.	2.28	2.61	2.60	1.85	2.34	2.30
Cotton Lint	lb.	.277	.453	.432 ³	.278	.390	.414 ³
Cottonseed	ton	85.00	97.00	95.00	91.00	100.00	100.00
Soybeans	bu.	4.33	5.47	5.75	4.16	5.19	5.43

Livestock & Products

All beef cattle	cwt.	56.80	55.00	54.80	64.00	64.70	66.50
Steers/heifers	cwt.	72.00	71.00	72.00	67.80	68.50	70.90
Cows	cwt.	34.00	31.00	29.00	35.80	33.60	32.60
Calves	cwt.	82.00	78.00	78.00	96.70	91.90	90.40

¹ Entire month. ² Mid-month. ³ Based on purchases first half of month.

Tennessee Prices Received: Corn, Soybeans, by Month, for Marketing Years 2000-2002 ¹

Year	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan ²	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	MYA
Dollars Per Bushel													
Corn													
2000-2001	1.72	1.87	2.30	2.22	2.21	2.32	2.29	2.29	2.39	2.44	2.40	2.10	1.96
2001-2002	1.97	1.86	2.28	2.24	2.26	2.18	2.14	2.25	2.15	2.28	2.42	2.54	2.06
Soybeans													
2000-2001	4.79	4.61	4.62	4.97	4.89	4.61	4.52	4.42	4.49	4.60	5.17	5.05	4.69
2001-2002	4.67	4.30	4.33	4.46	4.43	4.47	4.56	4.59	4.72	4.89	5.60	5.64	4.46

¹ Marketing year is September-August. ² Second year.

October Egg Production: U.S. egg production totaled 7.41 billion during October 2002, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.34 billion table eggs and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2002 averaged 338 million, up slightly from a year earlier. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,192 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2,180 eggs in October 2001.

Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by State and United States, during October 2001-2002

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	Thousands				Number	
Alabama	2,761	2,305	10,330	9,816	1,926	1,925
Arkansas	4,759	4,699	14,613	14,667	1,930	1,868
Georgia	12,005	10,979	21,661	20,330	2,064	2,105
North Carolina	3,300	3,368	11,170	10,725	1,952	1,977
All Other States ²	249,756	253,450	279,311	282,498	2,220	2,233
United States	272,581	274,801	337,085	338,036	2,180	2,192

¹ Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. ² Tennessee included in other states.

Livestock Slaughter: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.38 billion pounds in October, up 3 percent from the 4.27 billion pounds produced in October 2001 and a new record high for October. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.27 million head, up 3 percent from October 2001. The average live weight was 1,270 pounds, up 23 pounds from October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 100,800 head, up 7 percent from October 2001. The average live weight was 308 pounds, down 10 pounds from October a year ago. Hog kill totaled 9.40 million head, 1 percent above October 2001. The average live weight was 264 pounds, down 3 pounds from October a year ago. Sheep slaughter totaled 300,200 head, 4 percent above last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 6 pounds from October a year ago.

Livestock Slaughter¹: United States, October 2001 and 2002

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Cattle	3,162	3,267	3,943,776	4,148,613	1,247	1,270
Calves	94	101	29,830	31,047	318	308
Hogs	9,334	9,403	2,488,339	2,482,579	267	264
Sheep & lambs	289	300	39,721	39,285	137	131

¹ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).

Hired Workers Down 5 Percent, Wage Rates up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1.19 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of October 6-12, 2002, down 5 percent from a year ago. There were 935 thousand workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 250 thousand workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.93 per hour during the October 2002 survey week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.30 per hour, up 29 cents from last October. Livestock workers earned \$8.44 per hour compared with \$8.39 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.33 was up 24 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.4 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 41.7 hours a year ago.

The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana and Ohio), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin) and Southern Plains (Texas and Oklahoma) regions. Over much of the Corn Belt, summer drought conditions and untimely rains impacted crop development and fall harvest. Corn Belt producers were just getting fall harvest underway during the survey week and hired fewer workers for longer hours. Cold temperatures in the Pacific region slowed the apple and grape harvests, curtailing the need for field laborers. Rain and wet soils in the eastern Lake region and most of the Southern Plains delayed harvest of most field crops, necessitating fewer workers. The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia) region, Florida and the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana and Wyoming) region. In the Appalachian II region, more workers were employed by nurseries and greenhouses as they geared up for the holidays, and fruit harvest was in full swing in the eastern part of the region. In Florida, citrus fruit harvest was accelerating, causing the need for more workers. In the Mountain I region, harvested acres were up for most field crops, which led to an increased need for workers to complete harvest, and conditions were ideal for most of the reference week. Hired farm worker wage rates were above a year ago in 12 of the 18 regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania), California, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada and Utah), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota) and Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi) regions. The higher wage rates in the Northeast II region were attributed to more salaried workers working fewer hours and a higher percentage of nursery workers. California's wage rate increased due to the normal seasonal shift to more full-time, higher paid employees. In the Mountain II region, winter wheat planting and fall crop harvest were nearly complete, decreasing the need for seasonal, lower paid workers. In the Northern Plains, farming operations continue to hire and maintain experienced, full-time workers. Wet conditions in the Delta led to fewer hours worked, thus increasing the average hourly wage for salaried workers. There was also a higher percentage of catfish workers in Mississippi. Regions showing the largest declines in the hired farm worker wage rates were the Corn Belt I, Southern Plains and Pacific regions. Declining hired wage rates in the Corn Belt I region were attributed to salaried employees that worked more hours during grain harvest, which lowered the average hourly rate. Calving and lambing seasons in the Southern Plains region led to more hours worked for salaried employees, lowering the hourly wage. Fruit harvest in the Pacific region was hampered by sub-freezing temperatures. Fewer higher paid fruit pickers lowered the overall average wage rate for the region.